

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 47

By Fitzhugh

A RESOLUTION to honor University of Tennessee Lady Vols Coach Pat Head Summitt upon her attaining a landmark thousandth victory.

WHEREAS, the citizens of this great State and their elected representatives are extremely proud to honor one of Tennessee's most accomplished and renowned citizens and one of the most inspiring individuals involved in collegiate athletics; and

WHEREAS, University of Tennessee Lady Vols Coach Pat Head Summitt recently reached an incredible milestone in her impressive coaching career by becoming the first Division I basketball coach in National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) history to win one thousand career games; and

WHEREAS, in a display of support and admiration for their beloved coach of thirty-five remarkable seasons, more than 16,000 Big Orange fans and players alike celebrated as Coach Summitt found victory once again when the Tennessee Lady Vols defeated the Georgia Lady Bulldogs 73-43 in Knoxville on February 5, 2009; the team claimed this historic victory on the very basketball court named in honor of their coach - "The Summit"; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Vols grabbed the lead early in the game and built upon it steadily, holding a double-digit lead by early in the second half; Glory Johnson was the game's high scorer, dropping in twenty, and Alex Fuller, Kelley Cain, and Angie Bjorklund each reached double digits in points scored; and

WHEREAS, no coach in the history of men's or women's collegiate athletics has cast such an extraordinary presence over the game of basketball as has Coach Summitt; and

WHEREAS, she has coached Tennessee to eight NCAA national championships during her career at the helm of the Lady Vols and has amassed an enviable career record of 1,000

wins to 187 losses, a tally which includes an NCAA tournament record for the most tournament wins at 104; and

WHEREAS, after thirty-five illustrious seasons at the helm of the Lady Vols basketball program, Coach Summitt trails only former UCLA coaching legend John Wooden's ten NCAA titles, having led her teams to eight national championship titles during her tenure; and

WHEREAS, Coach Summitt has established herself as a preeminent figure in women's basketball and is renowned both in this country and abroad; she won an Olympic silver medal as a member of the 1976 United States Olympic team and coached USA women's basketball to its first gold medal in Olympic competition in 1984; and

WHEREAS, Coach Summitt was named the Southeastern Conference (SEC) Coach of the Year seven times, is a seven-time NCAA Coach of the Year, and was named the Naismith Coach of the Century; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, Coach Summitt was inducted as part of the inaugural class to the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, and, in 2000, she was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, which awarded her the prestigious John Bunn Award; she has also been inducted into the Women's Sports Foundation Hall of Fame in New York City; and

WHEREAS, as a testament to her outstanding coaching ability, Pat Summitt's Lady Vol teams have made the Sweet Sixteen for twenty-three consecutive years, have participated in seven of the last ten Final Fours, have compiled thirty-two consecutive seasons with twenty or more wins, and have won thirty or more games in seventeen of her thirty-five seasons; and

WHEREAS, Coach Summitt's teams won fourteen SEC championships and thirteen SEC tournament championships, a feat which is nothing short of remarkable; and

WHEREAS, perhaps the most fitting compliment Coach Summitt has received comes from her peers in the coaching profession, as evidenced by the fact that several of her assistant coaches and former players have gone on to become college or professional head coaches; and

WHEREAS, simply put, Pat Summitt stands alone among her peers as the preeminent basketball coach in America, and this most recent accomplishment only serves to cement her prominent position in the pantheon of collegiate coaches; and

WHEREAS, this assembled group of state legislators is especially proud to pause in its deliberations to recognize this esteemed Tennessean for her extraordinary coaching accomplishments; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor University of Tennessee Lady Vols Coach Pat Head Summitt on winning her landmark thousandth basketball victory, applaud her vaunted level of success and her dedication to excellence both on and off the court, and extend to her our best wishes for every continued success, both personally and professionally.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Coach Summitt with this final clause